

## **Paint Shop Photo Album 4**

Reviewed by Don Lewis

### **Product Information**

Photo Album 4 was produced by Jasc Software. Corel Corporation has recently merged with Jasc Software. The contact address for Corel follows.

**Corel Minneapolis, Paint Shop Pro**  
**7905 Fuller Road**  
**Eden Prairie, MN 55344 USA**

### **Introductory Summary**

The purpose of Photo Album is to help organize your photos and keep track of them. Keywords let you tag individual photos or groups. You can search on keywords you have defined or on album or image information such as file name, album name, and date taken.

Photo Album includes other tools such as image editor, printing functions, special effects, slideshows, Video CDs and optimizing size for emailing.

### **Requirements**

- Windows 98 SE, 2000, ME, XP or NT 4.0 with service pack 3 or higher
- 64 MB Ram
- 24 MB available space on hard disk
- CD Rom drive
- Help System requires Windows Explorer 4.0 or higher

### **Installation**

The installation ran into a glitch. Inserting the CD launched the installation wizard. It installed files and advised to wait while it deleted backup files. The system sat for a very long time with no activity. I canceled the installation. It advised that no changes had been made. I reinserted the CD and was given the choice of deleting Photo Album or repairing it. I chose Repair and it completed the installation.

### **Features**

- **Organizing Photos:**  
Photo Album contains a cataloging function to search the hard drive or removable storage to create a database of photo file type, size, and date created, etc. A folder is treated as an album. A flexible keyword system allows setting up key words and associating them with photos. The search function allows searching on keyword, date created and album information.
- **Importing photos from digital cameras:**

Photo Album supports most cameras for viewing and downloading images to the hard drive.

- **Image Editor:**  
Photo Album includes an image editor with an adjust wizard, a one click fix tool and an easy to use and effective red-eye correction. It includes cropping, flipping and resizing function. It also includes many effects such as fish eye, glass block and edges. The editor should be adequate for most casual users and is much easier to use than full function editors.
- **Printing Options:**  
The printing system allows for printing entire albums or using templates or custom layouts.
- **Email Feature:**  
Email images by selecting them and clicking the email button. It connects to your default email program and opens a new message with the emails attached. There is an option to optimize the images for faster transfer. Since it uses your email program, your address book is available for choosing addresses.
- **Slideshow:**  
Selecting an album and clicking the share function and slideshow creates Slideshows. Share the slide shows by exporting them to a folder on the hard drive and adding the player. Copy the show to removable media and anyone can view it. Photo Album is not necessary for viewing.
- **VCD Albums:**  
A six-step wizard takes you through the process of creating slideshows on a VCD (Video CD) album. DVD, CD-R or CD-RW media can be used. These CDs will play on most DVD players and PCs. They are easy to copy and distribute.
- **Web Galleries:**  
This feature is used to create web galleries that can be uploaded and viewed by anyone connected to the Internet. Albums are automatically converted into a ready-to-use gallery that includes thumbnails and links to connect the pages of the gallery.

## **Documentation**

Photo Album comes with a 140-page user's guide. The guide is well organized and easy to follow. There is also a tutorial for an overview of all functions. The help function seems complete. It follows the outline of the guide. Use the context sensitive help for information on an open window by pressing F1. Online help in the form of tutorials is available from the Jasc learning center.

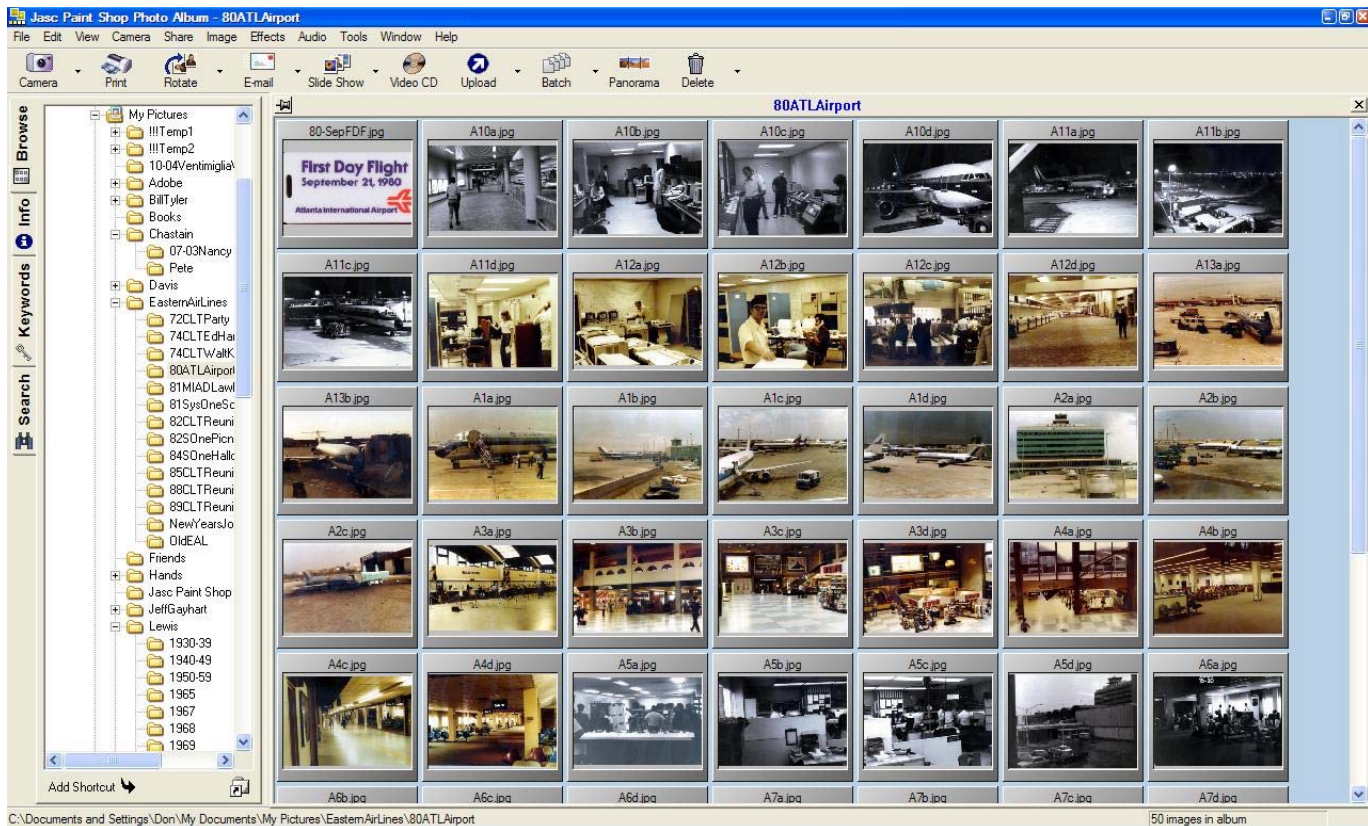
## Product Support

Jasc provides free access to support personnel via telephone or on the website. However, the access number is not toll free. I had no problems with the product, so I did not call for support.

## Conclusion

Paint Shop Photo Album has a simple easy to use interface. Folders are treated as albums. This makes organizing your pictures very simple if you have the pictures set up this way. If your photos are all in one big folder, it will be a little more difficult. You can either separate them into folders or add keywords to each image. Keyword searches cross all albums in the database. It is less important to have the images separated into folders with keywords assigned to each image.

The graphic below is a screen shot of the Browse function with a folder selected. The panel on the left is a Windows Explorer tree. It works just like Windows Explorer. The panel on the left shows thumbnails of all images in the folder. The tabs on the far left allow moving between the different functions of Info, Keywords and Search.



This is a good product for anyone with many photos to manage. If you own a digital camera it is almost a necessity to have a product like this to manage the many photos that

you will accumulate with the camera. However adding keywords to all images can be time consuming. Be prepared to spend a lot of time building your database.

Corel has merged with Jasc and has a new version of the product. The brochure shows that the features are very similar and the interface looks similar. The download price is \$36 or \$39 boxed. It is available at the website at:

[http://www.jasc.com/products/photoalbum/?](http://www.jasc.com/products/photoalbum/)